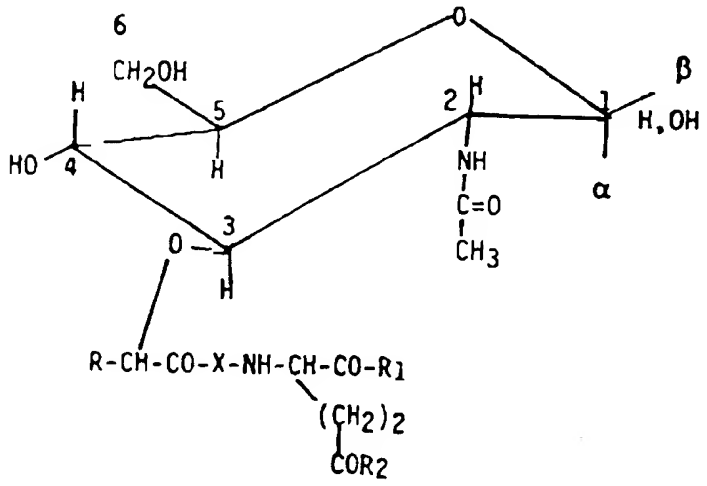
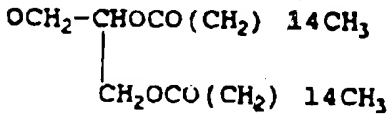
CLAIMS

1. Use, for the preparation of medicaments inhibiting the replication of acquired immunodeficiency retroviruses in man or those in mammals which they are capable of infecting, of a muramyl peptide of formula:

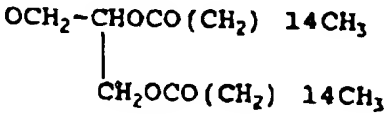


in which the group R is a hydrogen or a methyl group; X is an L-alanyl, L-threonyl or L-lysyl residue, and R1 is a hydroxyl, an amino or an $O(CH2)_xH$ group with x=1,2,3 or 4, R2 is, independently of R1, a hydroxyl, an amino or an $O(CH_2)_xH$ group with x=1,2,3 or 4, or a group



it being understood that, when X is an L-alanyl residue, at least one of these two groups R1 and R2 is still an $O(CH2)_xH$ group as defined above, and that R2 cannot be:

a group



2. Use according to claim 1, of a muramyl peptide of the abovementioned general formula in which the R

group is a hydrogen or a methyl group; X is an L-alanyl or L-threonyl residue, and R1 and R2 are, independently of each other, hydroxyl, amino or $O(CH2)_xH$ groups with x=1,2,3 or 4, it being understood that, when X is an L-alanyl residue, at least one of these two groups R1 and R2 is still an $O(CH2)_xH$ group as defined above.

3. Use according to claim 1 or 2, for the preparation of medicaments inhibiting the replication of an HIV in man.

4. Use according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the muramyl peptide is capable of inhibiting up to 100% the replication of retroviruses in primary cultures of monocytes of the host.

5. Use according to any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the muramyl peptide is one of those entering into the formula of claim 1, in which

the group R is a methyl group, and

the group R2 is an NH_2 group.

6. Use according to claim 5, characterized in that the muramyl peptide is Murametide.

7. Use according to claim 5, characterized in that the muramyl peptide is Murabutide.

8. Use according to any one of claims 1 to 7, as reagents, for the evaluation of the efficacy of anti-retroviral medicaments, in trials in vitro or in vivo.

9. Use according to any one of claims 1 to 7, for the prevention or treatment of AIDS or related syndromes, especially Kaposi's sarcoma.

10. Use according to claim 9, for the preparation of medicaments containing, in addition to the abovementioned muramyl peptide, another molecule participating in the anti-retroviral action.

11. Use according to claim 10, characterized in that the other molecule is a cytokine, such as an a-, b- or g- interferon.

12. Use according to claim 10, characterized in that the other molecule is GM-CSF.

13. Use according to claim 10, characterized in that the other molecule is a protease inhibitor.